

Connecticut Women's Health Campaign Statement of Principles

UNIVERSAL COVERAGE, which is affordable and accessible for all people regardless of income, age employment status, immigration status or location of residence. This is especially important to women who comprise the largest group of poor people in the country and have the highest proportion of part-time workers, and especially for women of color who face additional barriers because of racism. To make the promise of universal coverage real for all women, the new health care plan must include a cap on premiums and co-pays based on a percent of income model.

COMPREHENSIVE BENEFITS PACKAGE which covers a full range of services including but not limited to reproductive health care (including contraception, prenatal care and abortion), mental health and substance abuse treatment, preventive health care (including early detection services such as mammography, PAP smears, pelvic exams, and testing for HIV and STD's), acute and long-term care, and rehabilitative care.

INCLUSION OF A WIDE RANGE OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND SETTINGS. Providers should include mid-level practitioners such as midwives and nurse practitioners, and settings should include neighborhood health centers, family planning clinics and other programs that provide effective culturally and linguistically appropriate health care.

INCREASE ATTENTION TO WOMEN'S HEALTH NEEDS IN THE NATIONAL RESEARCH AGENDA, especially for the prevention and treatment of breast cancer and other medical conditions which disproportionately affect women, and the guaranteed inclusion of women in clinical trials and research samples for all medical conditions that affect women. Also, states should be required to collect data about women's health.

EQUAL REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN AT ALL LEVELS OF DECISION-MAKING, RESEARCH AND SERVICES DELIVERY, including those of different races, ages, income levels and sexual orientation. In addition, health care consumers should be included in the decision-making process.

CONFIDENTIALITY WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO PROTECT ACCESS for all people including, but not limited to minors, people with HIV infection, people seeking reproductive health care, and survivors.